

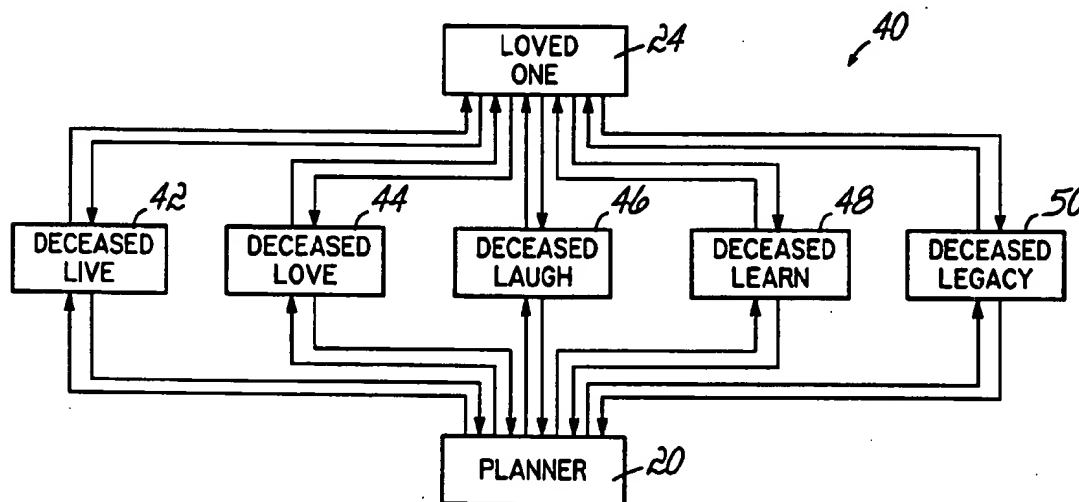


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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**Bastianelli et al.**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2004/0073450 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Apr. 15, 2004**(54) **METHOD OF PLANNING A FUNERAL OR  
OTHER MEMORIAL SERVICE**(52) **U.S. Cl. .... 705/1**(75) **Inventors: Ann Bastianelli, Indianapolis, IN (US);  
John Hinger, Cincinnati, OH (US)**(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A method of assisting a loved one of a deceased in planning a funeral or other service which memorializes the deceased. The method may be initiated with the "planner," i.e. a funeral director or computer and software, querying the loved one as to various aspects of the life of the deceased. Then, based on the loved one's responses to the queries, a theme is selected, from a menu of themes, for a vignette to be incorporated into the funeral or other service. Finally, within the selected theme, one or more memorial items are selected from a menu of memorial items to be utilized in the vignette. Alternatively, the queries can be dispensed with, and the loved one can immediately select a vignette theme from the menu of themes (assisted by either the funeral director or via interactive software running on a computer). Then, as before, one or more memorial items within the selected theme are chosen from a menu of possible memorial items, and are utilized in the vignette in the funeral or other memorial service.

(73) **Assignee: Batesville Services, Inc., Batesville, IN**(21) **Appl. No.: 10/682,665**(22) **Filed: Oct. 9, 2003****Related U.S. Application Data**(63) **Continuation of application No. 09/702,295, filed on  
Oct. 31, 2000, now abandoned.****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... G06F 17/60**

**DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER:** US 20040073450 A1

**TITLE:** Method of planning a funeral or other memorial service

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**Summary of Invention Paragraph - BSTX (4):**

[0002] Upon the death of a family member the surviving loved one of the deceased must make a number of decisions, including what type of funeral or other memorial service to hold, preparation of the body, selection of a suitable casket or cremation urn, etc. In the death care industry it is conventional for those decisions to be made in a so-called "arrangement conference." In an arrangement conference, the funeral director meets with the surviving loved one of the deceased, typically in the funeral home of the funeral director, and describes to and discusses with the surviving loved one the various funeral products and services which are available. The funeral director may use visual aids such as a product catalog, product display board (such as that disclosed in the assignee's U.S. Pat. No. 5,787,626 titled Funeral Product Display Case hereby incorporated by reference herein) and a casket selection room (such as that disclosed in the assignee's U.S. Pat. No. 5,405,017 titled Modular Casket Display System and in the assignee's pending application Ser. No. 09/638,576 titled Display For A Casket Selection and/or Viewing Room both hereby incorporated by reference herein) to illustrate the products available to the customer.

**Detail Description Paragraph - DETX (2):**

[0022] Referring first to FIG. 1, there is illustrated a block diagram 10 illustrating a preferred embodiment of the method of planning a funeral or other memorial service according to the principles of the present invention. As shown in the Figure, a planner 20 poses queries 22 to a surviving loved one 24 of a deceased. The loved one 24 provides responses 26 to the planner 20. Based on the responses 26, the planner 20 is able to select a memorial vignette theme 28. Within the memorial vignette theme 28, the planner can then select memorial items 30 to be incorporated into the chosen memorial vignette theme 28. Planner 20 could be either a live funeral director, or alternatively, a computer programmed with appropriate interactive software which queries the loved one 24 and, via a keyboard for example, allows the loved one to input responses 26 in response to the queries 22. In the latter case the computer and software could be located in the funeral home or alternatively a customer could access the interactive software from a home computer over the Internet.